



NO. 51

and

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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

RED MASK

10c



RED MASK



INTRODUCING

THE MAGIC OF
"THE PRESTO KID"

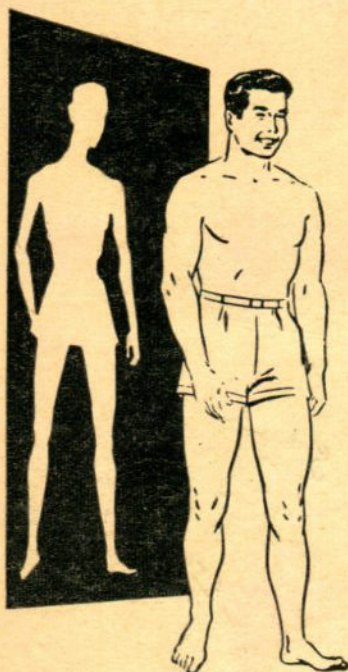


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SKINNY!

AMAZING NEW EASY WAY QUICKLY PUTS POUNDS and INCHES of SOLID FLESH on FACE, BODY, CHEST, ARMS and LEGS



Not a medicine, not merely vitamins. No drugs. No overeating. Instead a brand new concentrated meal with easy-to-digest wonder calories.

GO FROM THIS TO THIS

**in 10 DAYS
or your
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If you are skinny and embarrassed when you undress because of scrawny body, chest, arms, legs — mail the coupon for POUNDS PLUS. Now you can quickly put on 10 to 20 well-rounded pounds and more so fast it will amaze you. POUNDS PLUS is the newest discovery of medical science... entirely safe... not a drug... not a medicine. Instead, a delicious weight-adding tablet, jam-packed with wonder calories plus a secret substance that helps your body to build new pounds of healthy, attractive body weight. You gain solid good-looking flesh automatically wherever you need it — on face, neck, bust, arms, legs, ankles... Almost like magic, skinny, broom-stick figures fill out all over the body into a beautiful new "look" that wins popularity. POUNDS PLUS promotes appetite, new pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality. Don't be skinny... send for POUNDS PLUS today!

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How many pounds would you like to gain? Anyone in normal health can quickly achieve a well-rounded, attractive figure in a matter of days with this amazing POUNDS PLUS plan... put on pounds and inches of solid good-looking flesh... If you're tired of being skinny, missing out on the fun and good times... try POUNDS PLUS Today.

FAMILY DOCTORS — Your recommendation is welcome.
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NOW START GAINING WEIGHT IN 24 HOURS. Amazing, new POUNDS PLUS puts on weight faster than anything known to medical science. This secret concentrated food formula contains the miracle vitamins doctors use in hospitals to put on weight, plus bone-building Vitamin D, Red Vitamin B12 and 4 more remarkable weight-gaining and energy-building elements as proven in clinical tests. POUNDS PLUS improves the appetite, supplies quick pep and energy. Combats fatigue, sleepless nights, low resistance. Send for POUNDS PLUS TODAY!

FOR MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, CONVALESCENTS — POUNDS PLUS is extra rich. Each Daily Dose supplies more than the weight-adding calories of a full meal. Entirely safe, contains no drugs or stimulants. **IF YOU LOSE APPETITE QUICKLY**... If you fill up at meals and lose your appetite, take POUNDS PLUS — The all-in-one concentrated meal tablet that tastes delicious and works weight-gaining wonders.

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"Gained 18 pounds." — L. W. New York City
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SIZE!



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TOO!**

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☐ Rush a Large Economy Supply
(I save up to 90c postage by sending payment with order.)

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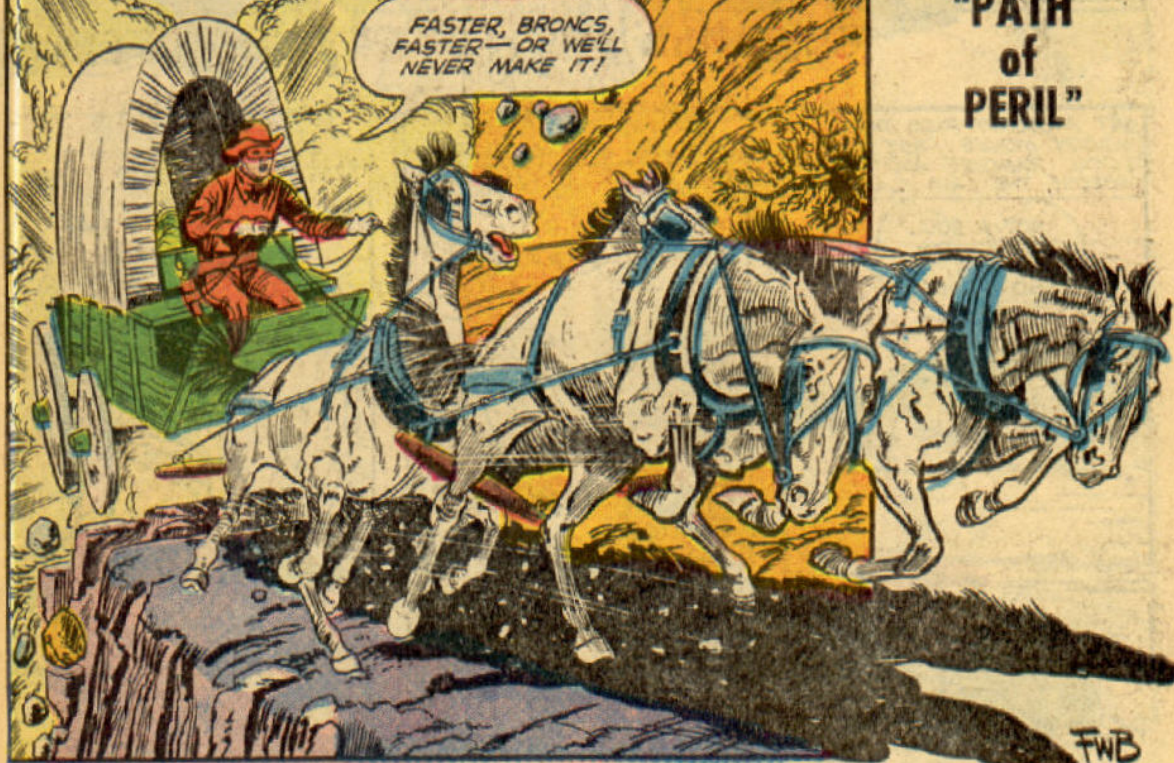
Sent on Approval

RED MASK

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE GOLD WAGONS OUT OF BULLET HAVE BEEN ROBBED BY AN ORGANIZED BAND OF OUTLAWS. IN DESPERATION, BANKERS AND BUSINESS MEN APPEAL TO REDMASK TO RIDE GUARD ON THE NEXT SHIPMENT. WHEN HE DOES, HE DISCOVERS THAT HE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO GUIDE THE GOLD TRAIN ALONG A GRIM AND DEADLY—

"PATH OF PERIL"

FASTER, BRONCS, FASTER—OR WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

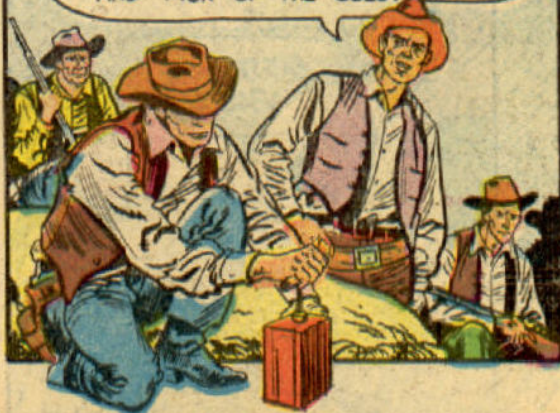


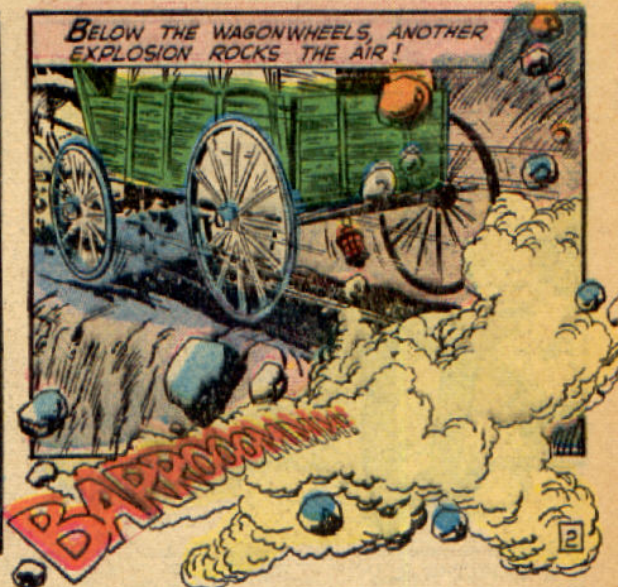
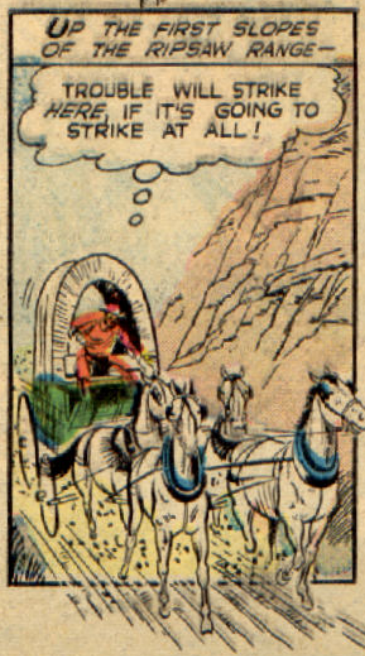
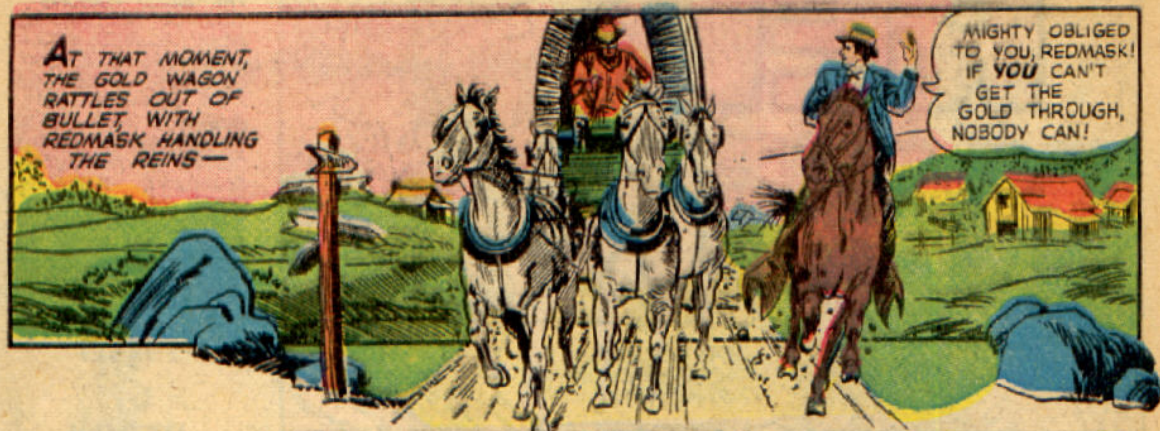
FOR A WEEK, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN IN READINESS ON A HEIGHT OF GROUND ALONG THE RUN FROM BULLET TO THE SMELTING FURNACES—

ALL WE NEED ARE THE GOLD WAGONS! SOON AS THEY COME IN SIGHT—WE STRIKE!



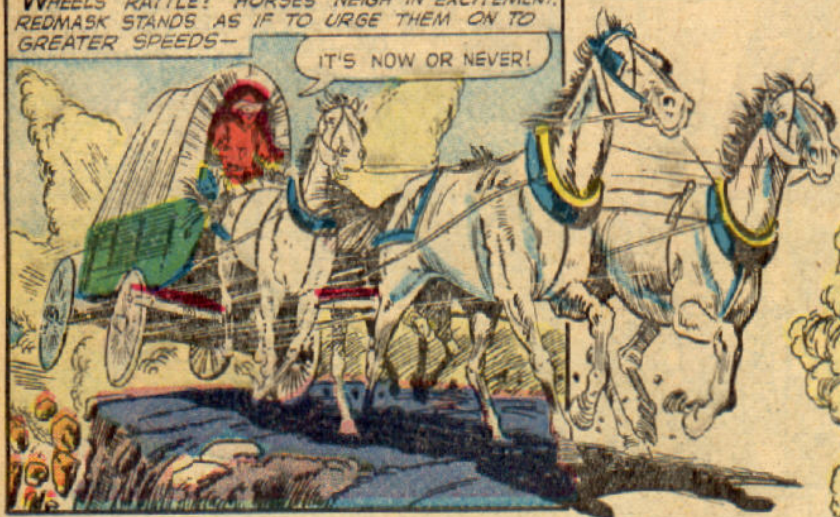
THERE WON'T BE ANY WAY OUT FOR WHOEVER'S DRIVING THE WAGON! ALL WE GOT TO DO THEN IS GO DOWN AND PICK UP THE GOLD!





WHEELS RATTLE! HORSES NEIGH IN EXCITEMENT, REDMASK STANDS AS IF TO URGE THEM ON TO GREATER SPEEDS—

IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

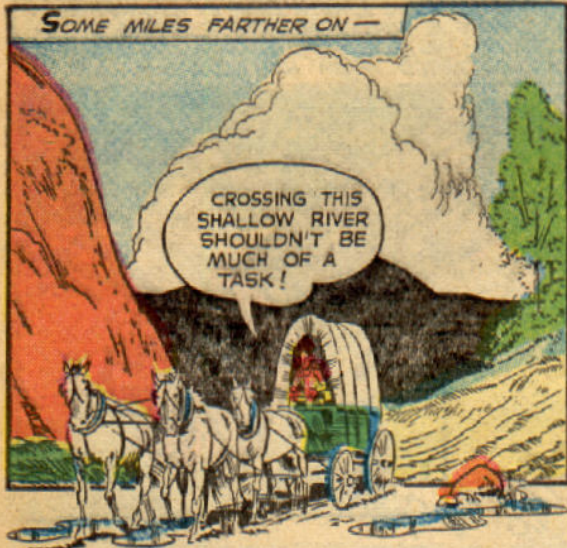


AND THEN SOLID GROUND IS UNDER HOOF—



SOME MILES FARTHER ON—

CROSSING THIS SHALLOW RIVER SHOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A TASK!



SUDDENLY, HALF A MILE AWAY, A WALL OF WATER BURSTS ITS CRUDE DAM—

NOW, WHILE HE'S MOVING ACROSS THE RIVER!

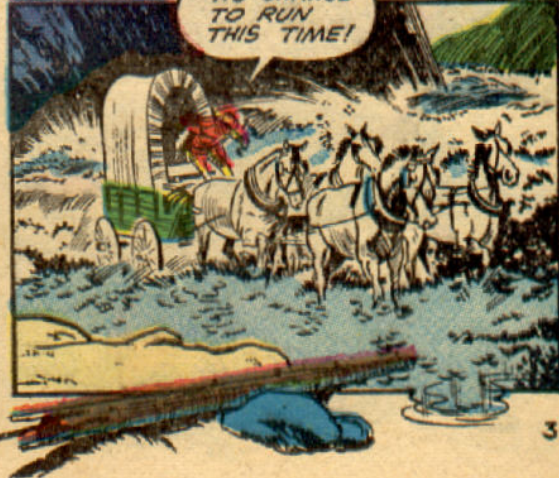


WITH THE EXPLOSIVE FURY OF A FLASH FLOOD, THE LOCKED-IN WATERS OF THE MAN-MADE LAKE BURST THEIR WOODEN BONDS—

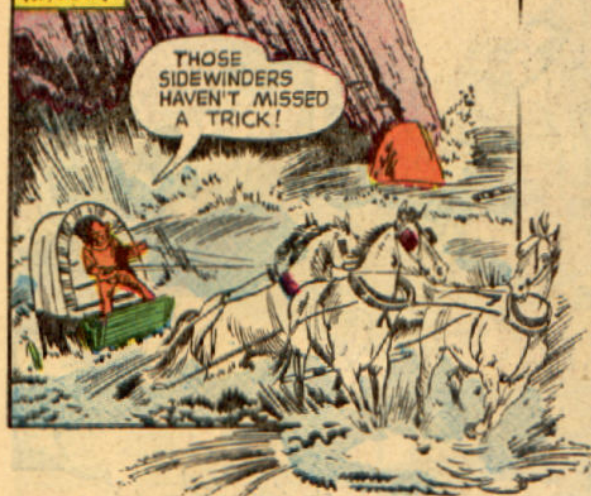
WELL DONE, MEN—LET'S GO PICK UP THE GOLD!



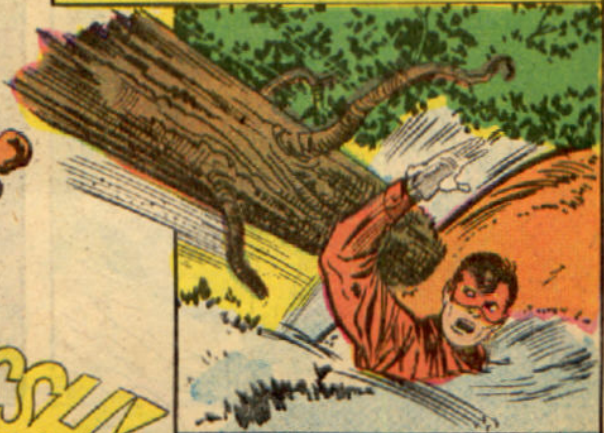
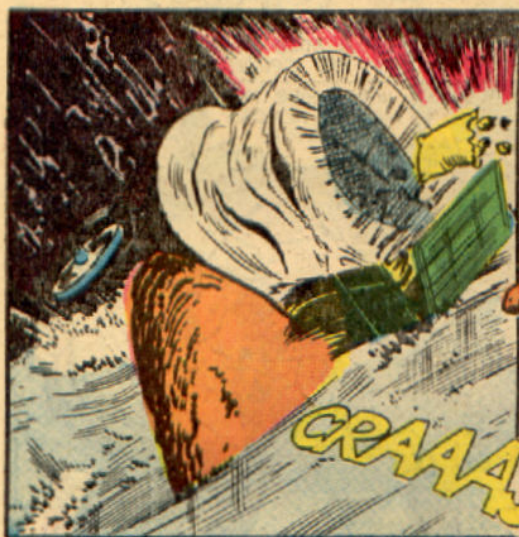
NO CHANCE TO RUN THIS TIME!



WITH A SHATTERING CRASH, THE WATER HITS THE WAGON!

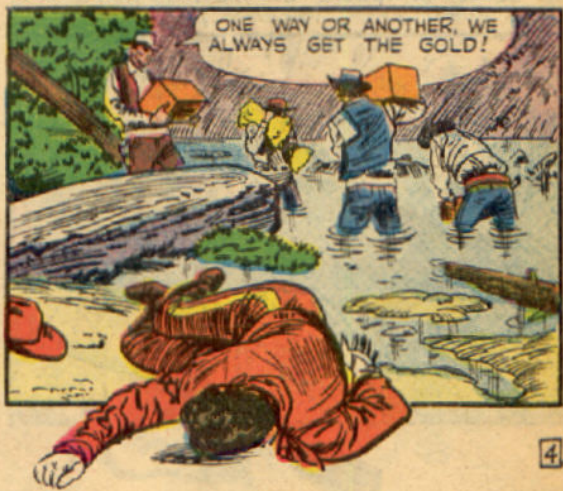
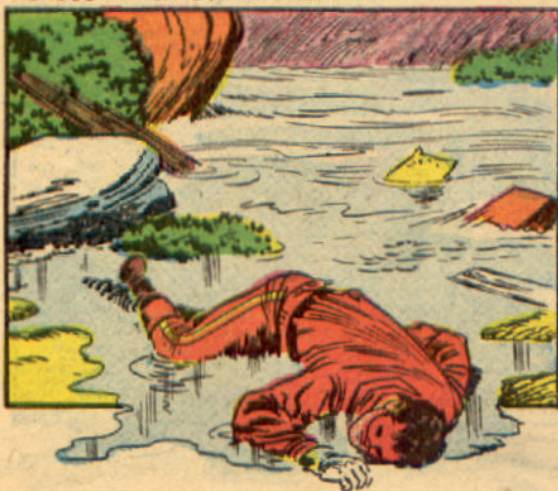


CARRIED ALONG LIKE A LEAF IN A WINDSTORM, REDMASK IS HURLED AGAINST FLOATING TREE-TRUNKS AND ROCK WALLS, UNTIL THE BREATH IS BATTERED FROM HIS LUNGS —



AND THEN, WHEN THE FURY OF THE WATER SUBSIDES, HE IS DEPOSITED LIMP AND LIFELESS ACROSS A SANDY RIVERBAR —

BEHIND HIM, GRINNING MEN LIFT THE CHUNKS OF SOLID GOLD FROM THE WAGON WRECKAGE —



HOURS LATER, REDMASK STIRS AND SITS UP THEN, PAINFULLY, HE DRAGS HIMSELF TO DRY LAND....

NO CHANCE TO GO AFTER THOSE OWLHOOTS WITHOUT A HORSE! BY THE TIME I GO BACK TO BULLET TO GET ONE, THEY'LL HAVE HIDDEN THEIR TRACKS SO I CAN'T FOLLOW!

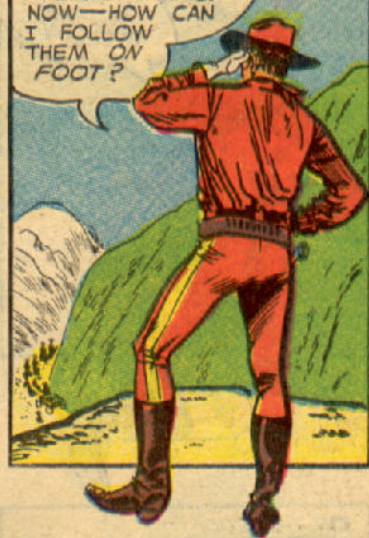


ONLY ONE THING TO DO! GET TO THE HIGHEST POINT OF LAND AROUND AND HOPE I CAN SEE THEM TAKING THE GOLD TO WHEREVER IT IS THEY HIDE OUT!



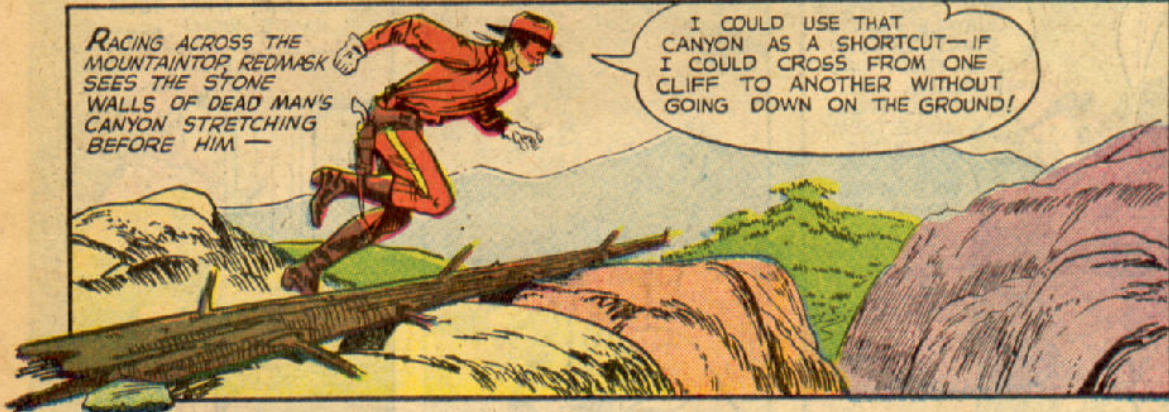
ON A TOWERING ROCKY PEAK HIGH IN THE RIPSAN RANGE, REDMASK SCANS THE COUNTRYSIDE —

THAT DUST CLOUD! THAT'S THE TRAIL THEY'RE TAKING. NOW—HOW CAN I FOLLOW THEM ON FOOT?



RACING ACROSS THE MOUNTAINTOP REDMASK SEES THE STONE WALLS OF DEAD MAN'S CANYON STRETCHING BEFORE HIM —

I COULD USE THAT CANYON AS A SHORTCUT—IF I COULD CROSS FROM ONE CLIFF TO ANOTHER WITHOUT GOING DOWN ON THE GROUND!



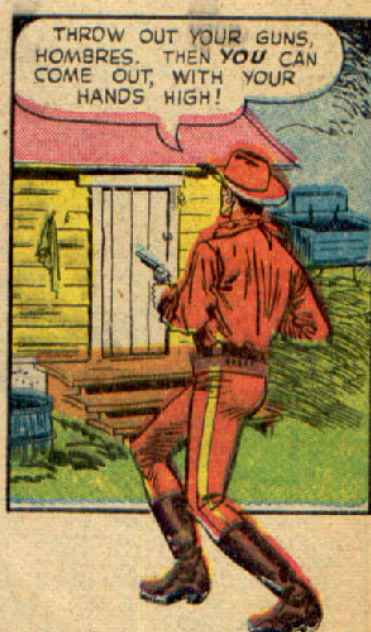
THIS SAPLING THAT I WHITTLED WITH MY KNIFE WILL LET ME DO THAT—BY POLE-VAULTING OVER FROM ONE CLIFF TO ANOTHER!



WHEN HE COMES TO A LONG SMOOTH STRETCH OF SNOW AND ICE, HE FASHIONS CRUDE SKIS—

THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR AHEAD OF ME NOW!





*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE GUAYALE PLANT IS VERY RICH IN RUBBER. DURING WORLD WAR II THESE PLANTS WERE USED TO FURNISH RUBBER FOR OUR ARMED FORCES. AND ANYONE WHO HAS SMELLED BURNING RUBBER KNOWS WHAT REDMASK MEANS!



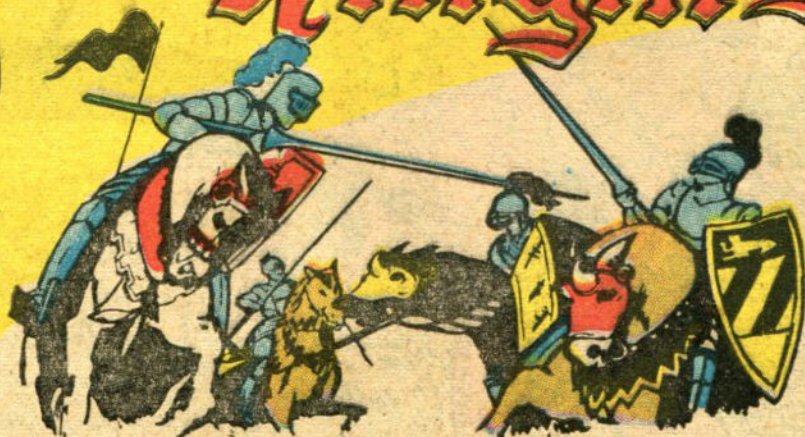
THE
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new plastic

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RED MASK

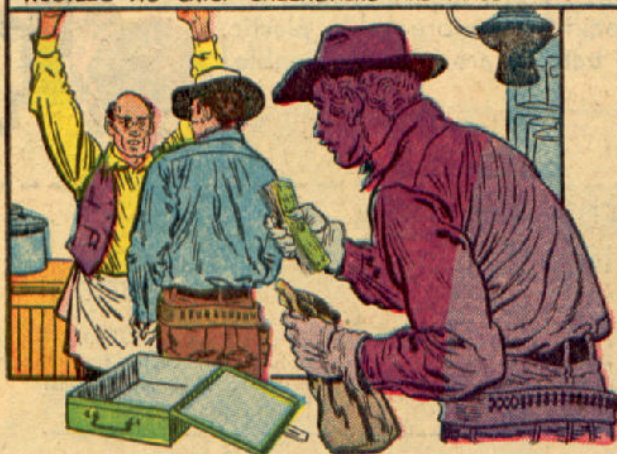
TRY AND FIGURE YOUR WAY
OUT OF THOSE QUICKSANDS,
REDMASK! HA! HA! HA!



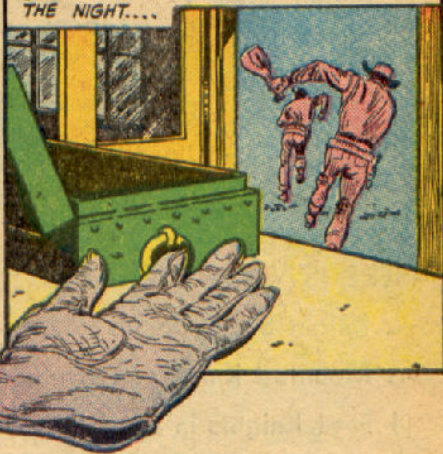
WHY DID THE ROBBERS
LEAVE A **PURPLE GLOVE** BEHIND
THEM, EACH TIME THEY STOLE?
BANK OR STAGECOACH OR GENERAL
STORE: EACH RECEIVED ONE OF
THE STRANGE SOUVENIRS AS
A MEMENTO OF THE OUTLAWS'
VISITS! ONLY ONE MAN KNOWS
THE ANSWER—AND HE IS TOO
FRIGHTENED TO TELL! ... AND SO
REDMASK RIDES BLIND UPON
THE TRAIL OF THE DESPERATE
GUNSLICKS WHO ARE KNOWN AS—

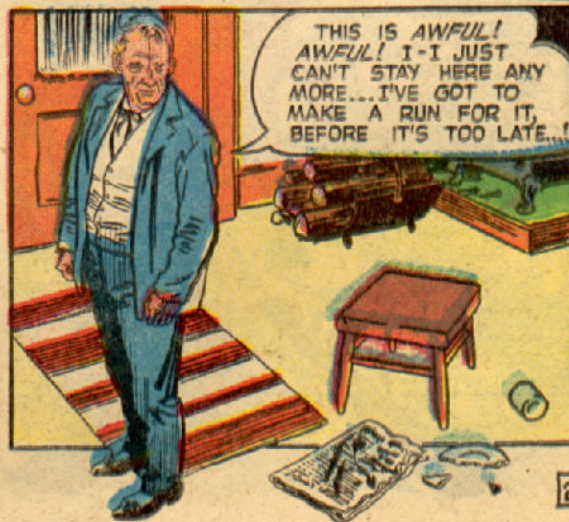
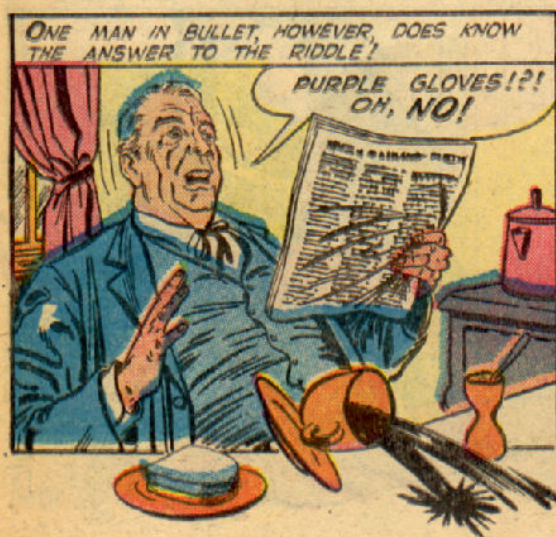
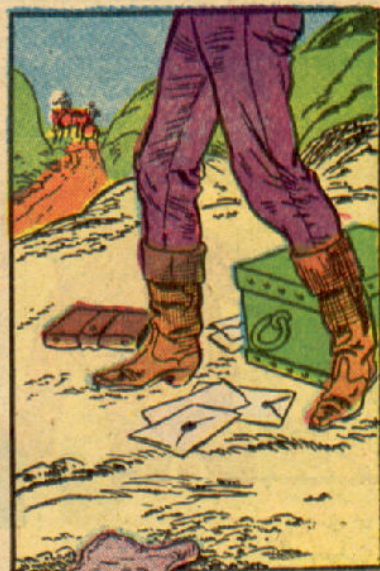
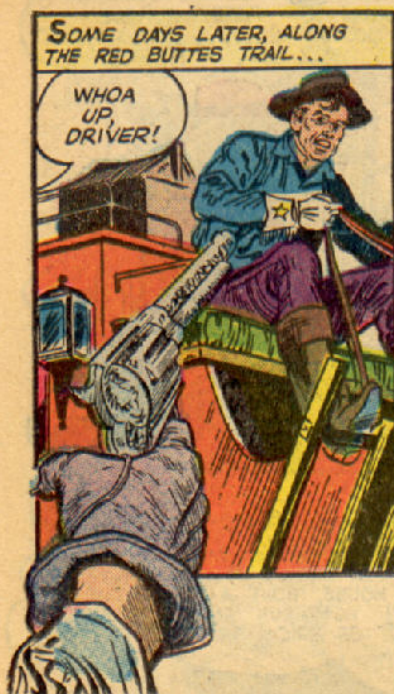
"THE PURPLE GLOVE GANG"

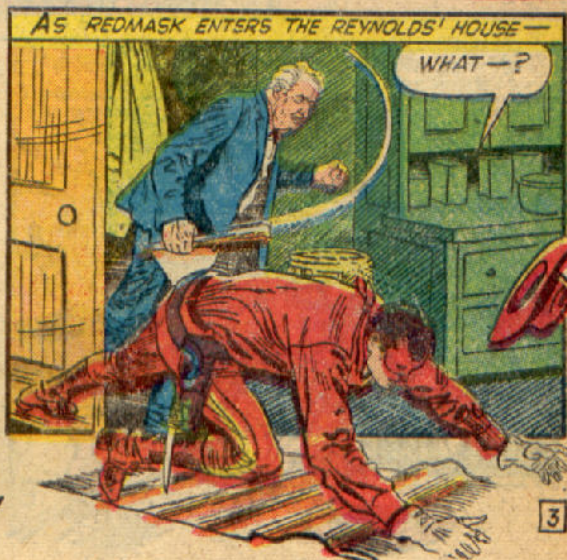
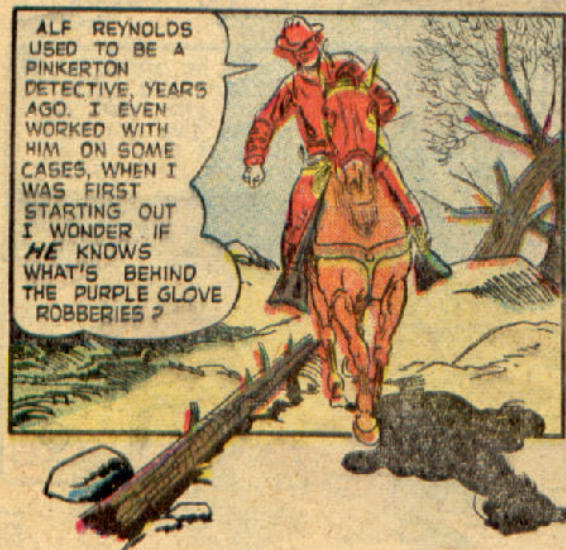
MIDNIGHT IN THE TOWN OF BULLET. A PAPER BAG
RUSTLES AS CRISP GREENBACKS ARE THRUST INTO IT....

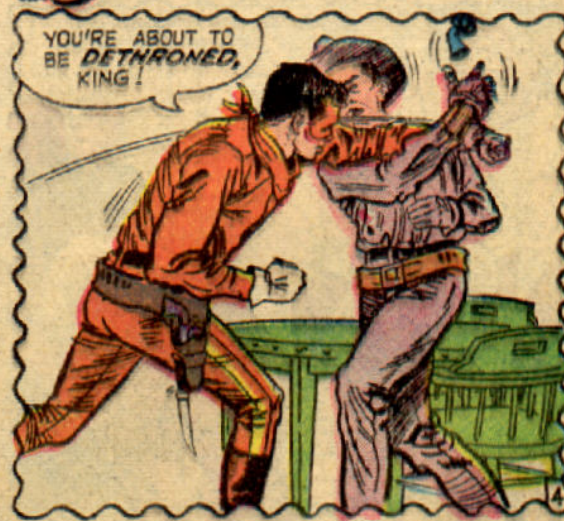
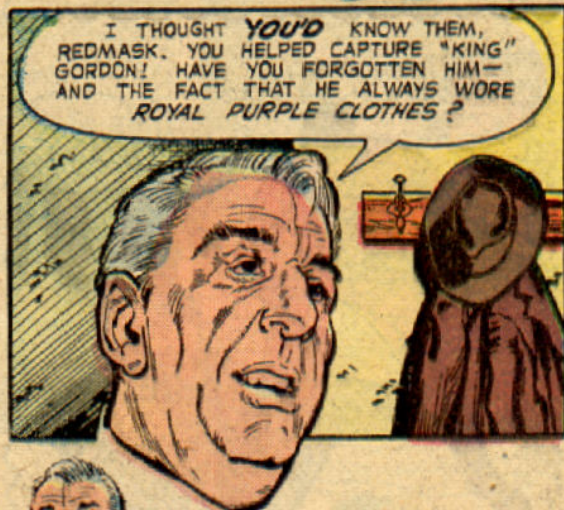
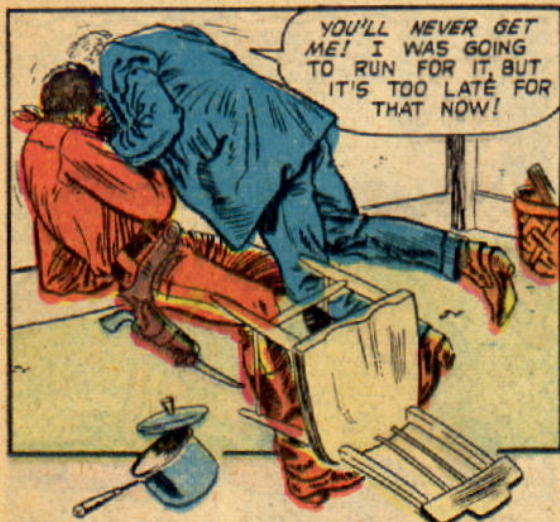


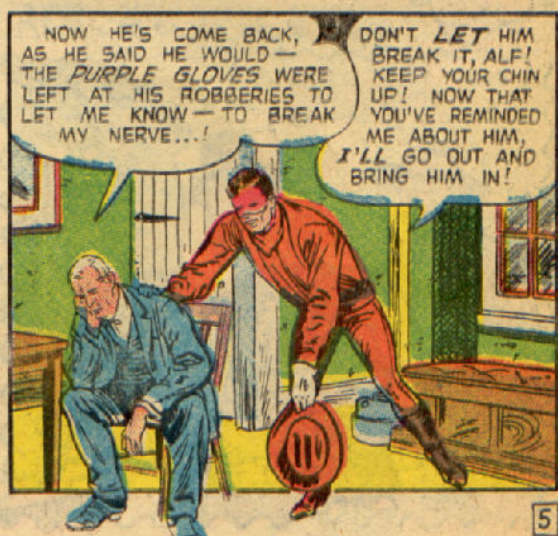
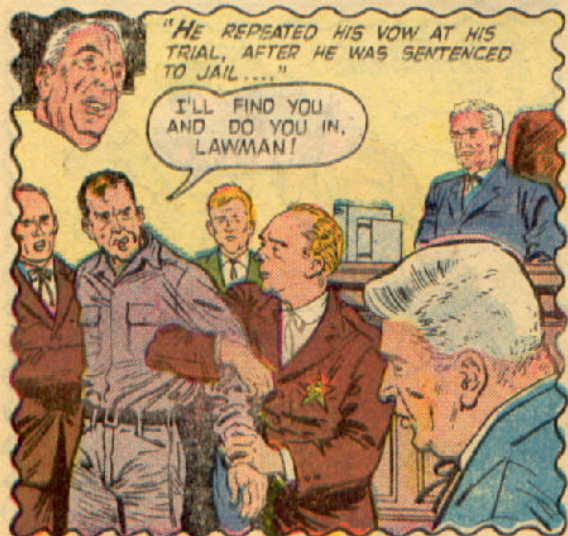
ONLY A **PURPLE GLOVE** REMAINS
BEHIND AS THE ROBBERS FLEE INTO
THE NIGHT....













As REDMASK RIDES FROM THE REYNOLDS HOUSE—

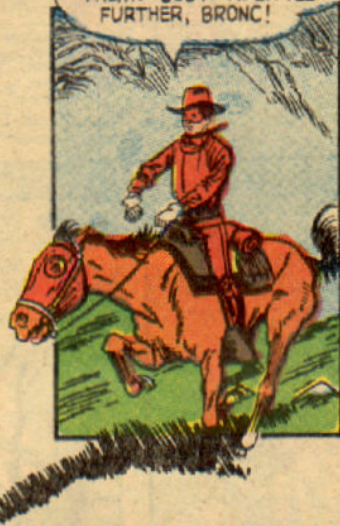
HERE COMES REDMASK NOW. WE'LL LURE HIM AWAY, THEN COME BACK AND FINISH OFF THE DETECTIVE!



KING GORDON! I'M PLAYING IN LUCK!

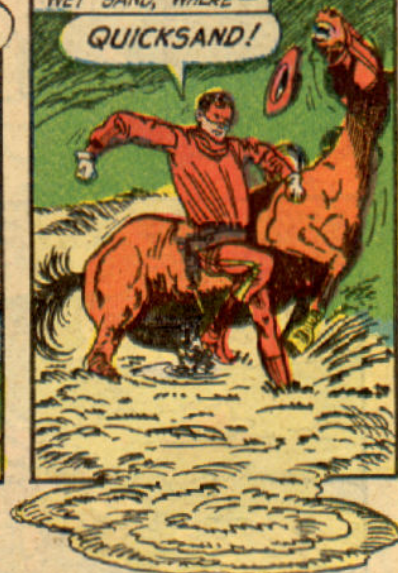
THE TRAIL LEADS PAST THE LAVA FLATS—

WE'RE GAINING ON THEM. JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, BRONC!



OUT ACROSS A STRETCH OF WET SAND, WHERE—

QUICKSAND!



WE'RE STUCK FAST—WITH NO WAY OF GETTING OUT...!

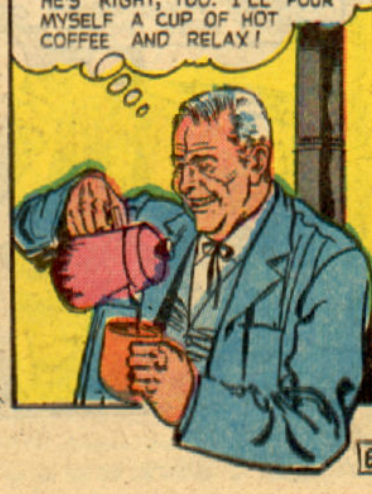
HA HA HA! WE GOT RID OF REDMASK EASIER THAN I THOUGHT. NOW WE'LL GO AFTER REYNOLDS!

HA HA HA! HE WAS SO ANXIOUS TO ARREST US, HE NEVER SAW THE QUICKSANDS! HA HA!



MEANWHILE, REASSURED BY REDMASK'S CONFIDENCE, ALF REYNOLDS RELAXES IN HIS HOUSE—

NO NEED TO WORRY. THAT'S WHAT REDMASK SAID. HE'S RIGHT, TOO. I'LL POUR MYSELF A CUP OF HOT COFFEE AND RELAX!



KING GORDON!

YEAH!
I'VE COME
BACK LIKE
I PROMISED, REYNOLDS!
AND NOW YOU'LL PAY
LIKE I ALSO
PROMISED...!



*STREAKED WITH SWEAT, HIS
MUSCLES ACHING WITH STRAIN,
REDMASK HURLS HIMSELF THIS
WAY AND THAT IN THE GRIP OF
THE QUICKSAND...!*

LOOKS LIKE
I'LL NEVER
GET OUT...!

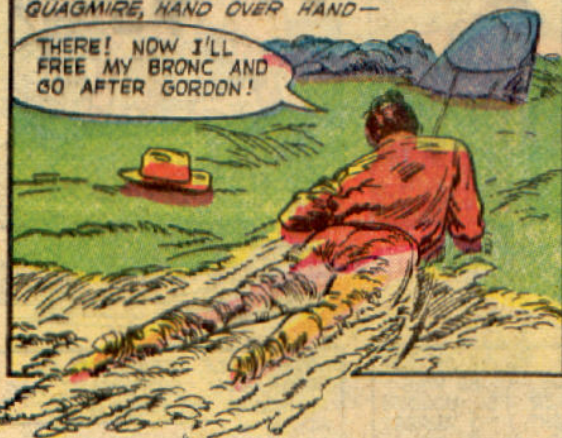


...UNLESS MY BELT
WILL REACH MY LARIAT—
AND IT DOES...!



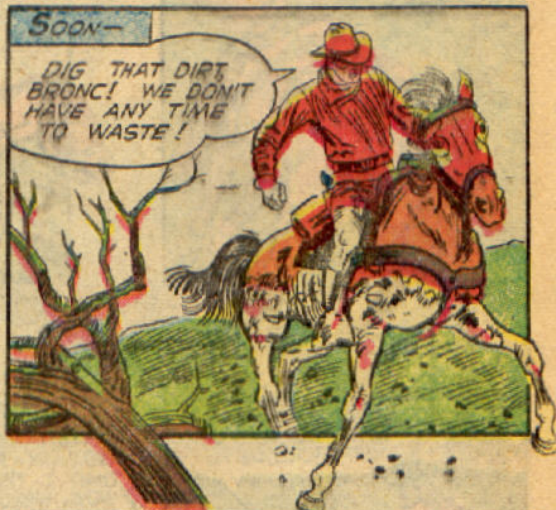
*CASTING A LOOP OVER A HUGE ROCK,
REDMASK PULLS HIMSELF OVER THE
QUAGMIRE, HAND OVER HAND—*

THERE! NOW I'LL
FREE MY BRONC AND
GO AFTER GORDON!



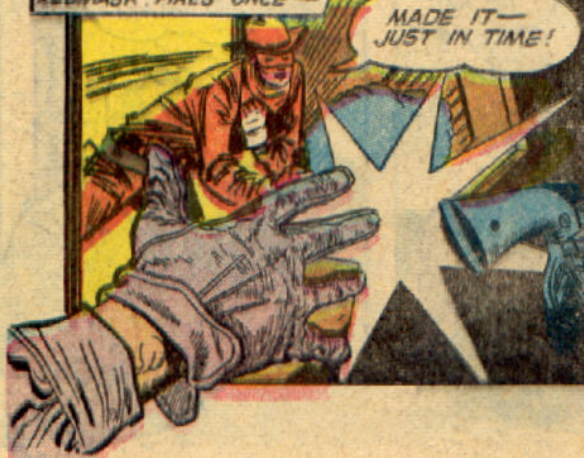
SOON—

DIG THAT DIRT,
BRONC! WE DON'T
HAVE ANY TIME
TO WASTE!



*AND SO IT IS THAT, AS THE DOOR TO THE
REYNOLDS' HOUSE COMES OFF ITS HINGES,
REDMASK FIRES ONCE—*

MADE IT—
JUST IN TIME!



LET'S GET MOVING,
GENTS! YOU TWO ARE
GOING BACK TO JAIL AND
THIS TIME—YOU'RE GOING
TO STAY THERE!



—THE END—

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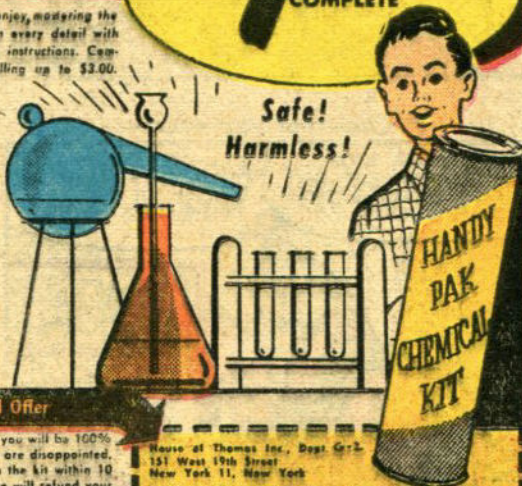
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Easy To Understand Instructions Show How To Experiment—Learn Tricks Too!

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8 CHEMICALS—Phenolphthalein solution
Cobalt Chloride solution • Calcium
Oxide • Sulfur • Sodium Carbonate • Calcium Chloride •
Red Litmus Paper • Blue Litmus Paper • 5 PIECES OF
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Send me your complete "SCIENCE MASTER" Kit by return postpaid mail. I enclose \$1.00 plus 25¢ for postage and handling for each kit ordered. I understand I can't order more than 3 kits.

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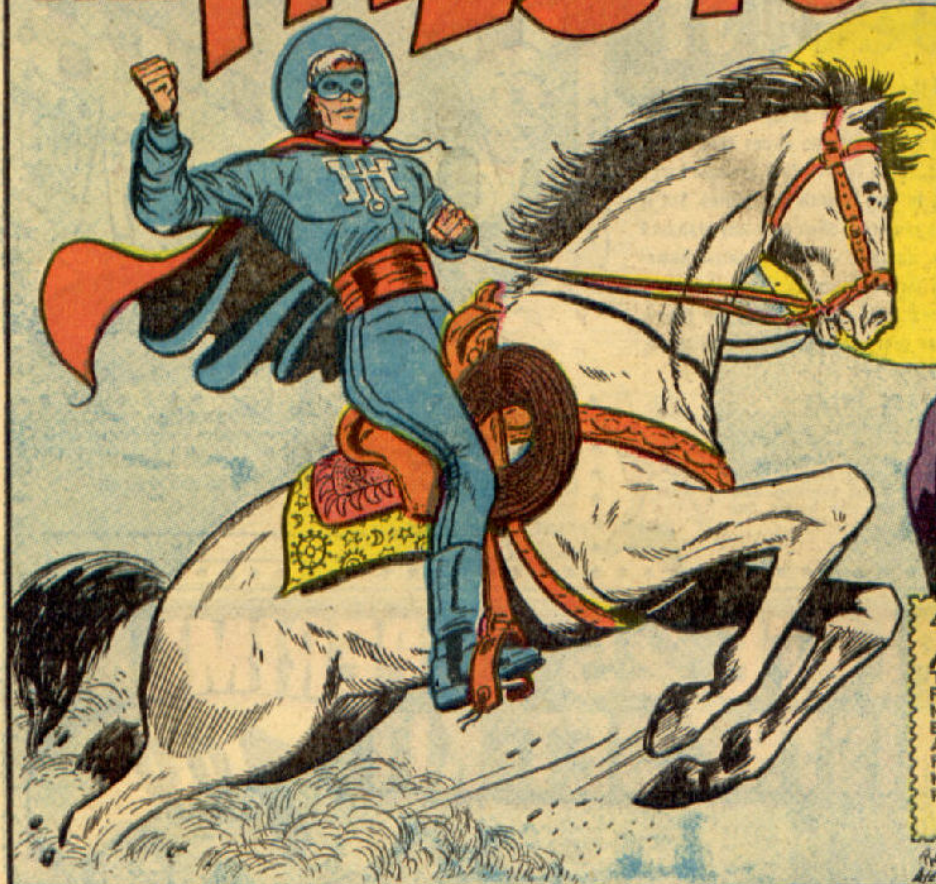
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THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED RIDER WAS THE ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND IN ALL THE WEST ... A **LAWMAN-MAGICIAN** WHO NEVER PACKED GUNS! FOR FLAILING FISTS, DAREDEVIL ACROBATICS, AND MAGIC-IN-ACTION, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN THE EQUAL OF...

THE PRESTO KID



EDITOR'S NOTE:

IN EVERY **PRESTO KID** TALE YOU'LL FIND A FEAT OF MAGIC CLEARLY EXPLAINED—SO ALL YOU JUNIOR PRESTOS CAN MYSTIFY YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES!

THE TOWN OF RED GULCH —



ANY CHANCE OF GETTING THIS MOUNT SHOD BEFORE THE YEAR'S OUT?

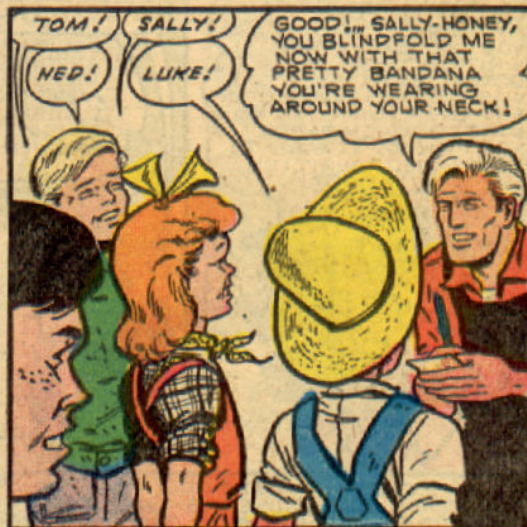
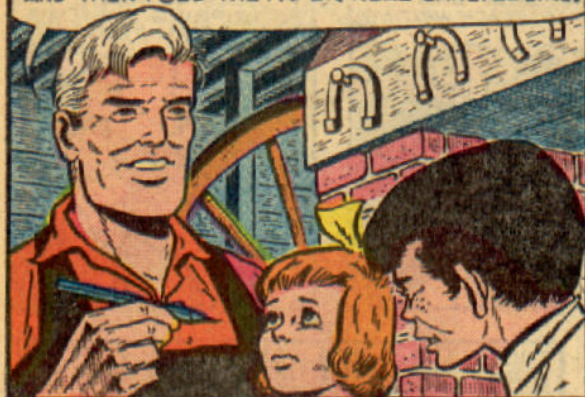
I'LL GET RIGHT ONTO IT, FRIEND—SOON AS I'M FINISHED HERE.



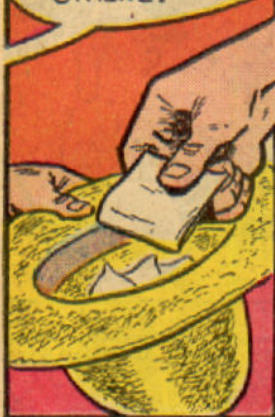
WHAT KIND OF BLACKSMITH *IS* THAT GALLOOT? MAKING A CASH-CUSTOMER WAIT WHILE HE PLAYS WITH KIDS...

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO JEFF IF YOU AIM TO SETTLE IN THESE PARTS...! ONE THING'S FOR SURE—*HE* WON'T CHANGE HIS WAYS!

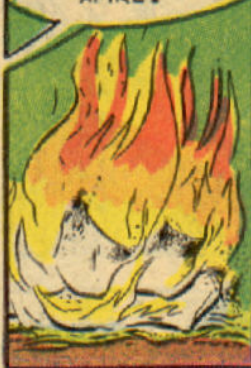
SORRY FOR THE DELAY, FOLKS... WE'LL GET ON NOW WITH THE SHOW! FOR TODAY'S MAJOR ATTRACTION, I'M GOING TO READ YOUR MINDS...! NOW I WANT YOU, ONE BY ONE, TO CALL OUT YOUR NAMES... AND I'LL WRITE EACH NAME DOWN ON A DIFFERENT PIECE OF PAPER... AND THEN FOLD THE PAPER REAL CAREFUL-LIKE!



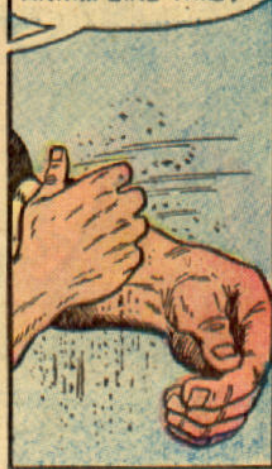
HERE ARE THE PAPERS, ALL FOLDED... AND LUKE'S DONE A FINE JOB OF SHUFFLING THEM UP IN HIS HAT! NOW, LUKE, PICK OUT ONE OF THE PAPERS, OPEN IT, AND SHOW IT TO THE OTHERS!



YOU'VE ALL SEEN IT... GOOD! NOW, LUKE, FOLD THE PAPER AGAIN AND PUT IT BACK WITH THE REST... NOW DUMP THEM ALL OUT ON THE GROUND... AND, TOM, YOU TAKE THIS-HERE MATCH AND SET THE WHOLE KIT-AND-CABOODLE AFIRE!



ALL BURNED...? ASHES COOLED OFF? GOOD! NOW I'LL JUST TAKE SOME OF THE ASHES AND RUB IT ONTO MY ARM... LIKE THIS!



SINCE I'M STILL BLINDFOLDED, FOLKS... I'D BE MUCH OBLIGED IF YOU'D READ TO ME WHAT'S SPRUNG UP SUDDEN-LIKE ON MY ARM!



G-GOLLY! THAT'S REAL MAGIC! YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US HOW TO DO THAT, MR. GRANT?



BEING THAT YOU'RE FOUR DIFFERENT PEOPLE, YOU CALLED OUT **FOUR DIFFERENT NAMES!** AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS WRITING THEM **ALL** DOWN! BUT I WASN'T! I WAS WRITING **NED** OVER AND OVER AGAIN! SO NO MATTER WHICH PAPER YOU PICKED, IT **HAD** TO HAVE "NED" WRITTEN ON IT!



B-BUT THE WRITING ON YOUR ARM... HOW'D YOU WORK **THAT**?

JUST AS EASY! KNOWING NED WOULD BE HERE, I'D

DECIDED ON USING **HIS** NAME BEFOREHAND. SO WITH A PIECE OF SOAP, I WROTE **NED** ON MY ARM, AND WHEN I RUBBED ON THE ASHES, IT STUCK TO THE SOAP AND SHOWED UP AS **BLACK WRITING!**



THAT WAS REAL SLICK! ANYBODY AROUND HERE EVER STOP TO THINK THAT **HE** MIGHT BE THE **PRESTO KID**?

WHO, JEFF? HMPF—THAT PEACE-LOVING FOOL CAN HARDLY WALK WITHOUT TRIPPING OVER HIS OWN FEET!



SHOW'S OVER FOR TODAY, FOLKS! HAVE TO GET BACK—

PLAYING WITH THE YOUNG 'UNS AGAIN, JEFF...? IF YOU WERE MAN ENOUGH TO PACK A GUN LIKE A REAL WESTERNER, YOU'D HAVE **GROWN-UP** FRIENDS TOO!



THOSE ARE HARSH WORDS, MOLLY. IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A SHINE ON ME, I MIGHT EVEN TAKE OFFENSE.

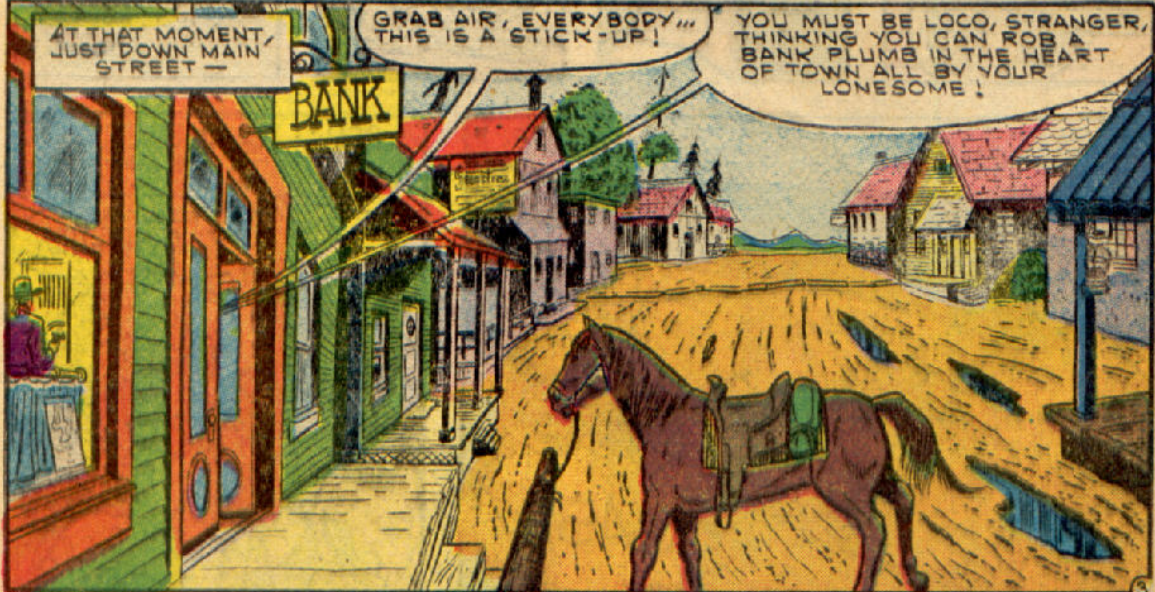
THAT'S **MOLLY BLANE**—SHE RUNS OUR POST OFFICE! AND HER TEMPER'S AS FIERY AS HER HAIR!



AT THAT MOMENT, JUST DOWN MAIN STREET—

GRAB AIR, EVERYBODY! THIS IS A **STICK-UP!**

YOU MUST BE LOCO, STRANGER, THINKING YOU CAN ROB A BANK PLUMB IN THE HEART OF TOWN ALL BY YOUR LONESOME!



THE TOWNSMEN GET WIND OF THE HOLD-UP!

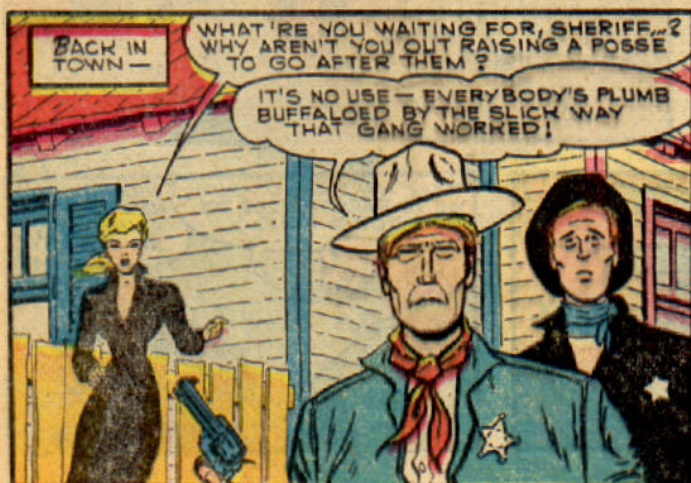


BUT THE MASKED MAN ISN'T WORKING ALONE! HE'S PLANTED HIS CRONIES IN WIDE-SPREAD AND UNLIKELY SPOTS — AND AS THE TOWNSMEN RUN BY, THE HIDDEN BADHATS GREET THEM WITH FLYING LEAD!



AND SOON —

THOSE ARMY TACTICS SURE PAY OFF! ALL WE HAVE TO REMEMBER IS TO KEEP **SPREAD OUT** AND TO THROW **COVERING FIRE** ON ALL OUR JOBS. AND WE'LL DRAIN THE TERRITORY DRY!



BACK IN TOWN —

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR, SHERIFF...? WHY AREN'T YOU OUT RAISING A POSSE TO GO AFTER THEM?

IT'S NO USE — EVERYBODY'S PLUMB BUFFALOED BY THE SLICK WAY THAT GANG WORKED!



YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF SPINELESS COYOTES! BECAUSE OF THE LOT OF YOU, WORD'S GOING TO SPREAD THAT RED GULCH IS AN EASY MARK — AND EVERY BADHAT IN THE WEST WILL HEAD THIS WAY!



THERE'S NOTHING THE SHERIFF CAN DO, MOLLY! ALL HIS DEPUTIES ARE WOUNDED... AND FEAR-FOR-THEIR-LIVES WON'T LET THE OTHER MEN BUDGE!

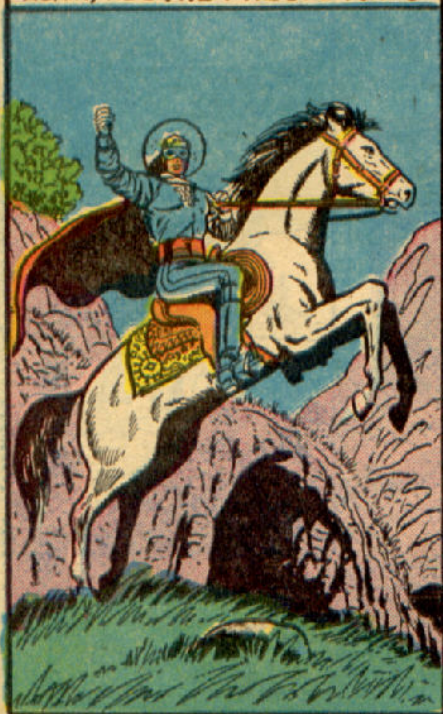
MAKES YOU FEEL FINE DOESN'T IT, JEFF? AT LAST EVERY MAN IN TOWN HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE AS SPINELESS AS YOU!

FOR A LONG TIME JEFF GRANT STANDS THERE, CHEWING HIS LIPS... BUT THEN HE SHRUGS AND TURNS AWAY FOR THE REST OF THE DAY HE STAYS INSIDE HIS SHOP. BUT THEN NIGHT FALLS —



HAVE TO RIDE FOR THE HILLS FOR THE CAVE IN THE HIDDEN CANYON!

AN HOUR'S HARD RIDE BRINGS HIM TO THE CAVE. HE DISMOUNTS AND ENTERS. BACK IN THE CAVE'S DEEPEST SHADOW, HE CHANGES HIS CLOTHING FROM HEAD TO FOOT... AND WHEN HE HITS AIR AGAIN, HE'S **THE PRESTO KID!**



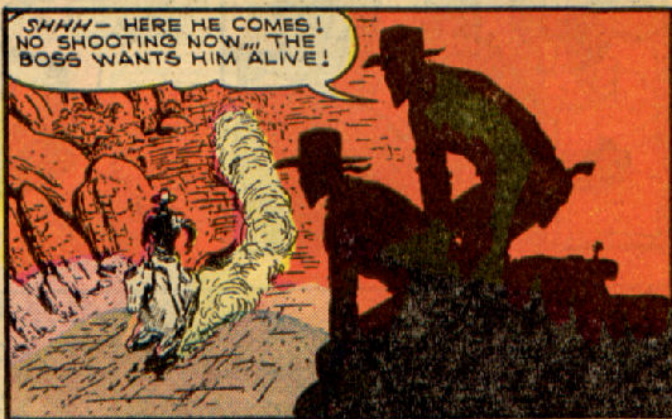
A FEW HOURS LATER —

WE'RE BEING TRAILED!
IT'S THE PRESTO KID!

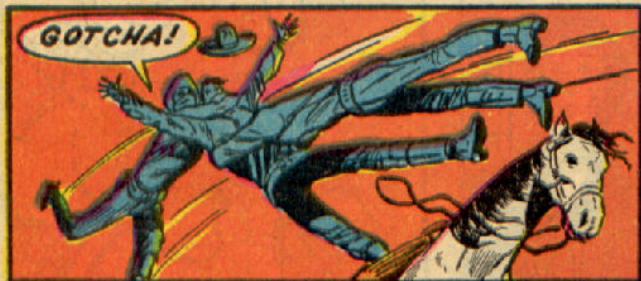
WE'LL USE ARMY TACTICS AGAIN! YOU TWO JUMP OFF ONTO THAT HIGH GROUND, BUT LET YOUR HORSES KEEP RUNNING! PRESTO WILL BE FOLLOWING THE TRACKS... AND AS HE PASSES BELOW, JUMP HIM!



SHHH — HERE HE COMES!
NO SHOOTING NOW... THE BOSS WANTS HIM ALIVE!



GOTCHA!



KEEP HIM PINNED DOWN!
WE'VE BACKTRAILED TO GIVE YOU A HAND!

H-HURRY UP!
HE'S BUCKING LIKE A MUSTANG!



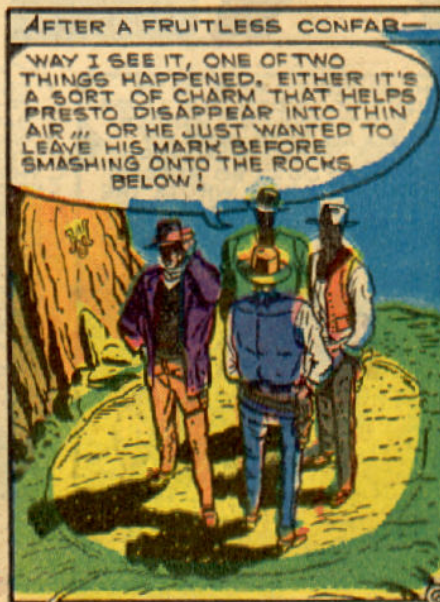
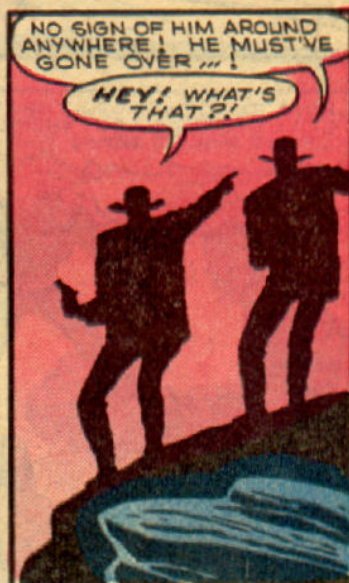
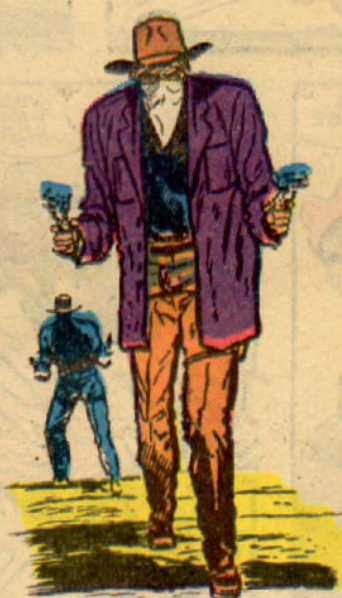
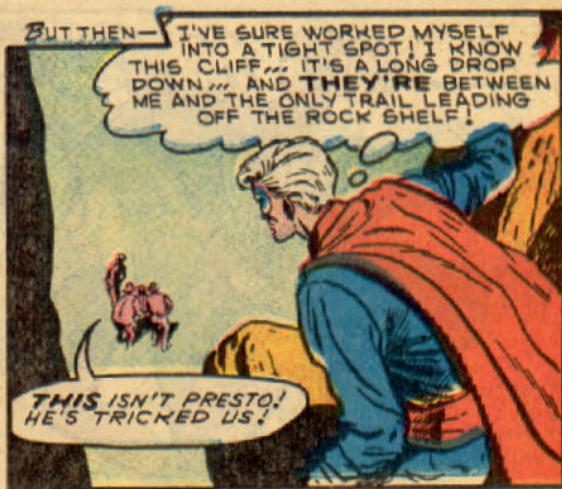
OWWW! THAT'S ME YOU WALLOPED!

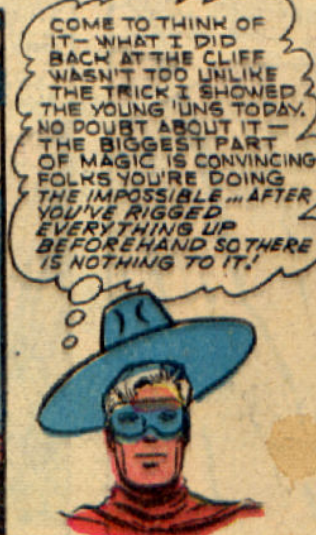
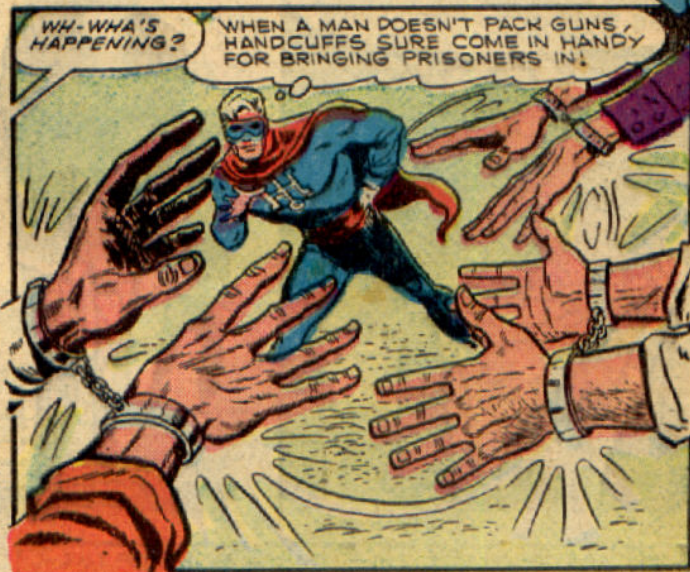
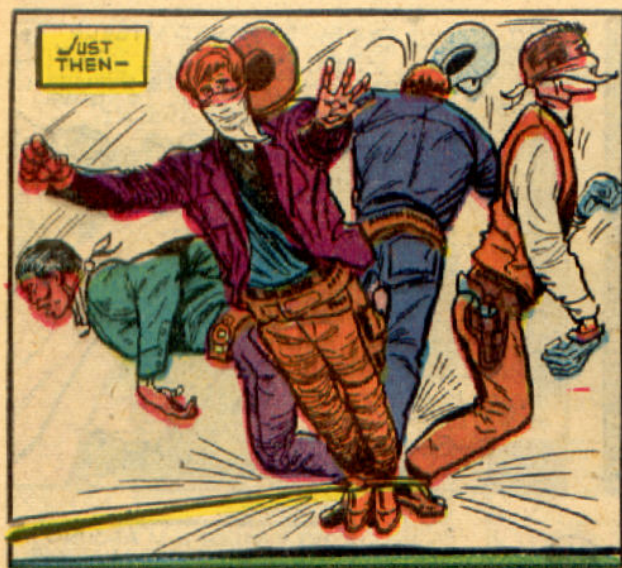
SHADOW'S SO THICK HERE...
HARDLY CAN SEE A THING!



WHEW — SURE LOOKED FOR A WHILE LIKE WE'D NEVER GET HIM TO STOP THROWING PUNCHES! BUT HE'S ALL OURS NOW... AND BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER, HE'LL BE TEACHING US SOME OF HIS MAGIC — OR ELSE!







WHY DOES THE PRESTO KID POSE AS A BLACKSMITH BETWEEN MISSIONS? WHAT IS BEHIND HIS FEELING AGAINST GUNS? AND HOW DID HE FIRST COME TO LEARN MAGIC...? FOR THE ANSWERS TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS, WATCH FOR FUTURE THRILLING INSTALLMENTS OF THE PRESTO KID!



REDMASK'S CAVE

Dear Readers:

When you send in questions about the west, we do our very best to answer them as completely as possible—but a good number of you boys and girls have been making inquiries that deal with the *movies* and *movie stars*. Your proper source of information about such subjects is a *movie magazine*. We do what we can to tell you what you want to know, but since we are equipped to handle queries about the west, it follows that motion pictures are outside our province. I trust that you good readers of The Cave will understand. . . .

Redmask

TO: Diana Green, Columbus, Ohio; Jess Tomey, Pawhuska, Okla.; Bob Curtis, Gresham, Ore.

Calamity Jane was a real person. Her real name was Martha Jane Canarry. Born in Missouri about the year 1848, she "went west" in 1863. Calamity Jane lived the life of a man for the most part. She could shoot with uncanny accuracy, and ride like a Comanche. She wandered from one town to another in the old west, stopping at Alder Gulch and Cheyenne, Abilene and Hays City. During the '70s, she worked as an army scout with the cavalry in its wars with the Indians.

She was a mule-skinner and cattle drover, also.

In Deadwood, she became friendly with Wild Bill Hickok. After he died, Calamity Jane busied herself at various odd jobs, and achieved a reputation as a sort of heroine when smallpox struck Deadwood, by nursing and caring for the sick.

Later, she appeared on the stage, describing her days in the building of the west. Books were written about her. She died in 1903, and is buried now beside her good friend, Wild Bill Hickok.

To enumerate the famous outlaws of the west would take quite a lot of space, but

some of the more famous ones would include Jesse James, his brother Frank, the Younger boys, Billy the Kid, Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, the members of the Hole-in-the-Wall gang, Kid Curry, Bill Doolin, the Apache Kid, Black Bart of California, Sam Bass, Joaquin Murietta, Clay Allison, Cherokee Bill, the Dalton boys, Bob, Emmett, Grat; Sam Starr and a host of others.

* * *

TO: Norman Baxter, Killarney, Manitoba

The Lone Ranger became the Lone Ranger after being ambushed with other Texas Rangers by a band of outlaws. His Indian friend Tonto—whom he had helped escape once by lending him a horse—found him badly wounded and nursed him back to health. After some time, the Lone Ranger grew better, and got the idea of becoming the Lone Ranger. Everyone thought he was dead (being one of the ambushed Texas Rangers), and the black mask he wore would make a perfect disguise. From this time on, Tonto and the Lone Ranger worked together in their unrelenting pursuit and capture of outlaws and badmen.

TO: Gary Price, Detroit, Mich.; Gary B. Matson, Rosedale, N. Y.; James Sikara, Sacramento, Calif.; Harold Browning, Chilhowie, Va.; Ruby Lesline, Logan, Iowa; Dickie Hayes, Pennington Gap, Va.; Charles LeBaron, New York, N.Y.; Maryless Doud, Wisconsin; Frank Nayavich, Jr., Port Isabel, Texas

Sorry. No pictures of the Black Phantom or of Redmask available as yet. No subscriptions are being accepted to Black Phantom magazine. Incidentally, Redmask is NOT the Ghost Rider. Rex Fury is the Ghost Rider. Redmask prefers to be Redmask most of the time. The Black Phantom works with Redmask. She has no secret cave of her own, but is free to come and go in Redmask's Cave, for she is his assistant in tracking down outlaws and bandits.

The town of Bullet exists only in Redmask. However, it is modelled on towns that did exist in the old west. So that, while it may not exist in fact, it has existed in part, in the past.

Yes, there is a heavy vein of pure gold running through Redmask's Cave. Redmask uses a Colt Peacemaker revolver and a Bowie knife. Upon occasion, he uses a lariat and a Winchester rifle.

Bobby Benson and Tex Mason are fictional characters, as is the Range Rider. The Ghost Rider is fictitious, not real.

Dale Evans is a real person. She stars with, and is married to, the western movie star, Roy Rogers.

Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse attacked General George Custer at the Little Big Horn, in the state of Montana.

* * *

TO: Janet McLeod, East Anderson, N. H.; Cynthia Davy, Jamaica, B.W.I.

There are cowboys and cowgirls today, but we see them mostly only in the rodeos that are staged yearly. They work either on their own ranches or on ranches where they are employed. Big ranches still exist today. We have the fabulous King Ranch and the XIT, for example. Much of the work is done by mechanical means, in jeeps and with power tools. Still, in the rougher parts of the range, the cowboy and his horse can go where jeeps cannot.

These ranches have roundup times, where they brand their cattle, even today. However, there are no outlaws in the west now—unless you call thugs and hoodlums outlaws. And they mostly frequent the big cities, not the open range.

TO: Bruce Worrell, Battle Creek, Mich.

In case some of you readers do not see the replies to your letters in the next issue after mailing your letters, remember that we answer *all* the queries to the Cave. You may have missed a reply in one of the issues. There are a good many letters to be answered, and, in order to cover them all, we must watch lest we repeat, over and over, information that has already appeared here.

The Range Rider is a fictitious character. We have nothing in our files to indicate that "Whip" Wilson was a real character. Chances are, he was fictitious.

* * *

TO: Eddie Bentley, Buffalo, N. Y.; James D. Wood, Waitsburg, Wash.; Al Dean Robinson, Temple, Texas

We have given information about Billy the Kid many times in the Cave, but he continues to be popular as a source of interest. His real name was William Bonney. He knifed a man when twelve years old and had to flee. He became a cowboy and range rider and rustler in the "unknown years" between the knifing and the Lincoln County war, where he emerges as a deadly gunman.

Billy the Kid was born in New York City. He was shot to death by sheriff Pat Garrett on a ranch belonging to Pete Maxwell in New Mexico.

Legend says that Billy the Kid killed 21 men, one man for each year of his life, for he was 21 years old when he died. Born in November, 1859, he was killed in July, 1881. This will make him 21 years old, not 22; he would have been 22 in November, 1881.

The Colt Peacemaker is not used today, except in western and TV movies; when the producers want to stick close to the real life aspects of the films they are making, they have their heroes and villains use them. The Peacemaker was the most glamorous of all Colt revolvers.

Wild Bill Hickok is buried in Deadwood, South Dakota.

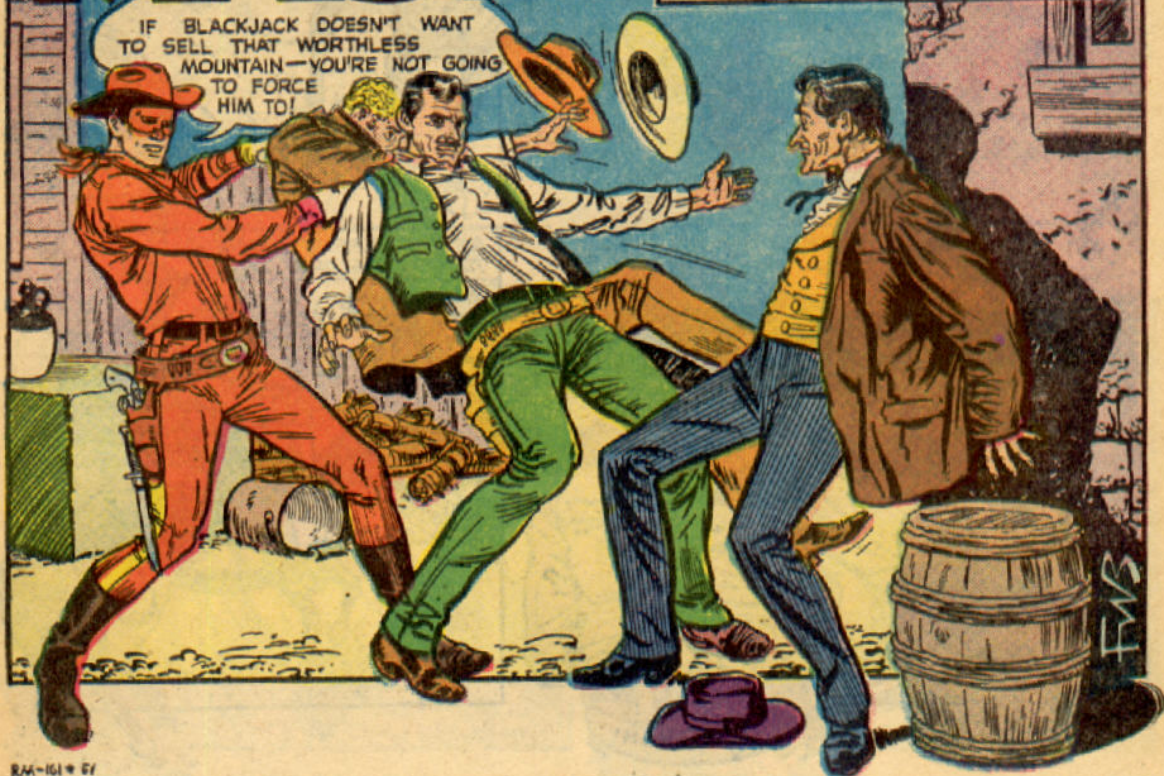
Send inquiries to: Redmask's Cave #51
c/o Magazine Enterprises
11 Park Place
New York 7, New York

RED MASK

MONEY FOR A USELESS MOUNTAIN!
GOOD GOLD FOR SOLID ROCK!
WHAT IS BEHIND THE STRANGE PLAN
THAT DRIVES OUTLAWS TO PAY HARD
CASH FOR WORTHLESS PROPERTY?
FOR LAND NOT WORTH A PLUGGED
PESO? ...REDMASK GALLOPS OUT
ON THE PUZZLING TRAIL ONLY TO
LEARN THAT THE TRUE ANSWER LIES
IN THE BAFFLING MYSTERY BEHIND—

"THE FROZEN GOLD"

IF BLACKJACK DOESN'T WANT
TO SELL THAT WORTHLESS
MOUNTAIN—YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO FORCE
HIM TO!



RM-161 * 57

WIMPY JONSON, AN OLD PROSPECTOR FROM THE
MONTANA COUNTRY STARTLES A CABARET IN
BULLET ONE AFTERNOON—

TREAT'S ON ME, GENTS!
I JUST STRUCK IT RICH!



THAT MOUNTAIN
YOU AND BLACKJACK
OWN AIN'T GOT NO
GOLD!

WHERE'D
YOU
FIND IT?

DIDN'T FIND
NO GOLD! I
JUST SOLD
MY SHARE
IN THE
MOUNTAIN
TO THREE
GUNSLICKS!



BY GUM! I FEEL PURTY SORRY
FER THEM HOMBRES AT THAT. THAT
MOUNTAIN IS THE MOST WUTHLESS LAND
I EVER DID SEE. BUT THEY WANTED
TO BUY IT—SO I SOLD MY SHARE
IN IT!

AT THAT MOMENT, SOME MILES FROM TOWN—

FASTER HORSE! THOSE
MEN ARE OUT TO DO
ME IN!

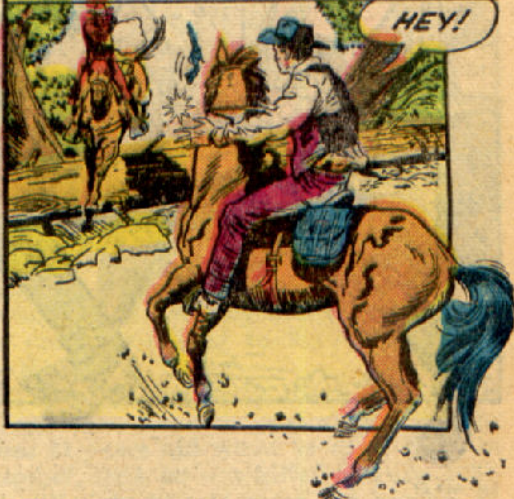


GOT HIM COVERED. ANYTIME
YOU BOYS SAY, I'LL BRING
DOWN HIS BRONC!



AS THE FLEEING MAN BURSTS INTO THE
TIMBERED SLOPES OF THE HILLS—

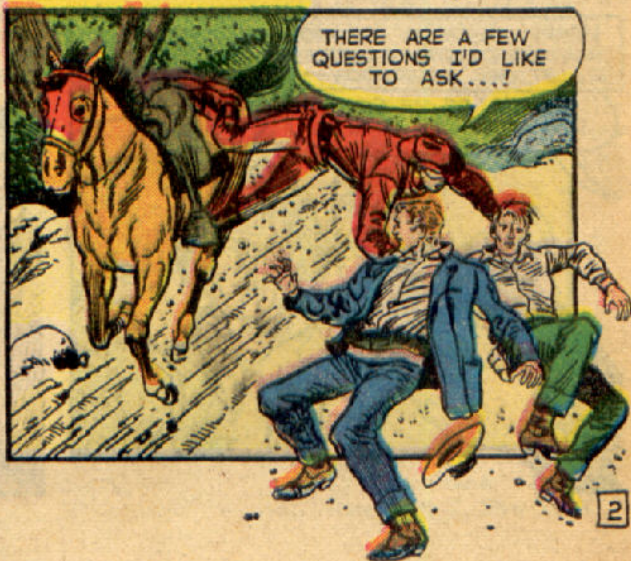
HEY!

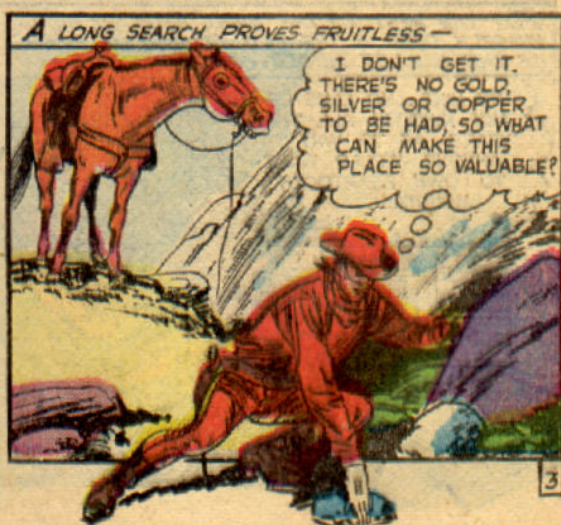
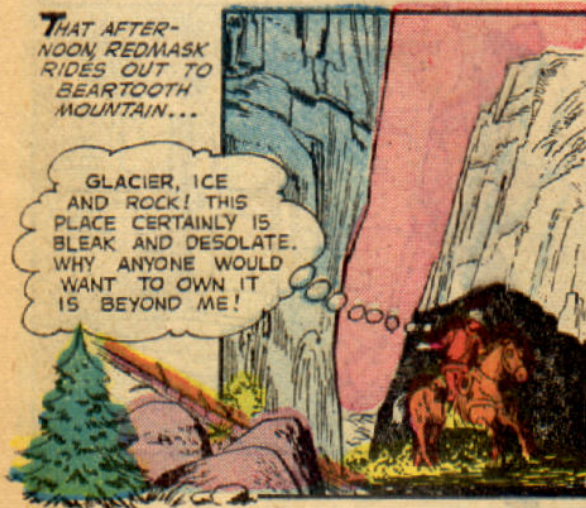
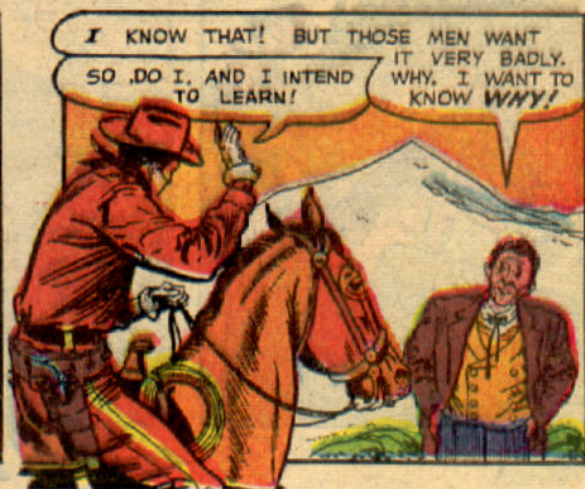
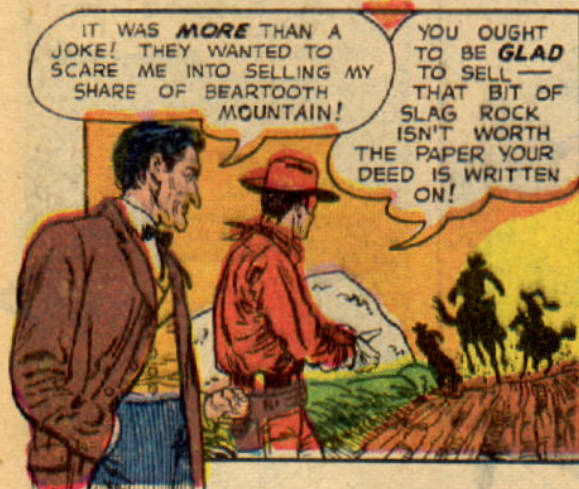


WAIT UP
BOYS!



THERE ARE A FEW
QUESTIONS I'D LIKE
TO ASK...!





AS HE RIDES DOWN OUT OF THE HILLS, REDMASK SIGHTS A CABIN AND STOPS TO INVESTIGATE...

THIS IS WIMPY JONSON'S CABIN.



DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, REDMASK! THIS IS **OUR** CABIN NOW. WE BOUGHT IT FROM WIMPY. THE DEED'S MADE OUT TO ME—
JOE MUNGER.



HERE'S THE DEED. SEE FOR YOURSELF!

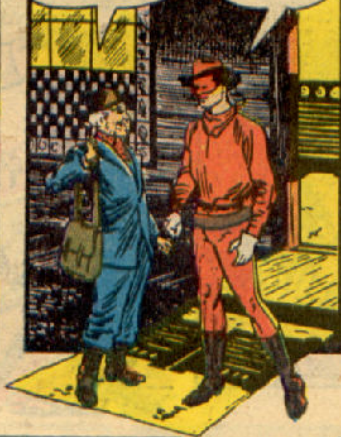
IT'S YOUR LAND AND YOUR CABIN, ALL RIGHT. I'LL VAMOSE PRONTO!



IN BULLET, THAT NIGHT...

SURE, I SOLD MY CABIN AND HALF SHARE IN THE MOUNTAIN. IF THOSE HOMBRES WANT IT THAT BAD LET 'EM TAKE IT!

BUT CAN'T YOU TELL ME **WHY** THEY WANT IT?



MISTER, OLD WIMPY NEVER ASKS QUESTIONS. I JUST TAKE MONEY WHEN IT'S OFFERED ME. BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS: THERE'S NO GOLD IN THAT MOUNTAIN AND THERE NEVER WILL BE. BLACKJACK'S A FOOL NOT TO SELL. TELL HIM I SAID SO, TOO!



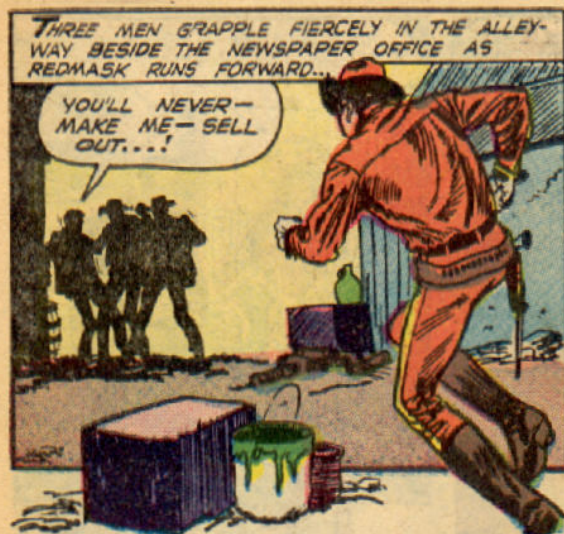
FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT, REDMASK BURIES HIMSELF DEEP IN THE OLD NEWSPAPER FILES OF THE BULLET BUOLE OFFICE...

NO HINT...NO CLUE OF ANY KIND IN ALL THESE YEARS AS TO WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO OWN BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN...



I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT READING THOSE OLD NEWSPAPERS AND FOUND ONLY ONE THING THAT MIGHT MEAN—**WHAT'S THAT...?**







BY WAY OF A NARROW, TWISTING TRAIL, THE GUNMEN COME AT LAST TO A HIGH SHEER WALL OF ICE —

THE GLACIER ICE. FOR THIRTY YEARS THIS ICE HAS BEEN MOVING REAL SLOW BUT STEADY. IT'S FINALLY ARRIVED AT THIS SPOT!

EDITOR'S NOTE: GLACIAL ICE MOVES AT VARYING SPEEDS. SOME GLACIERS MOVE ONE OR TWO INCHES A DAY. OTHERS MOVE AS MUCH AS 4 FEET. SOME HAVE MOVED 100 FEET A DAY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS!

BURIED IN THE ICE IS A GREAT CHEST FILLED WITH HUGE CHUNKS OF RAW RED GOLD...

FROZEN GOLD—ALL OURS! MY BROTHER KILLED AN OLD PROSPECTOR TO GET IT!



"HE HID THE GOLD IN A ROCK CREVASSE INTENDING TO COME BACK AND GET IT. BY THE TIME HE CAME BACK, THE GOLD HAD BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY THE GLACIER!"



JOE TOLD ME WHEN I COULD EXPECT THE CHEST TO REACH THIS ONE SPOT WHERE WE COULD GET IT. JUST TO MAKE SURE IT WAS OURS, WE HAD TO BUY THIS MOUNTAIN!

IT'S COMING!



SORRY, BOYS. THIS GOLD DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU—EVEN IF YOU DO OWN THE MOUNTAIN!

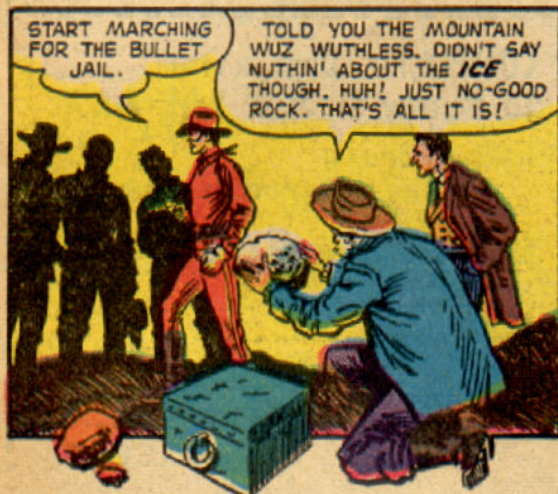


IT'S **STOLEN** GOLD! AND YOU **KNEW** IT WAS STOLEN. THAT MAKES YOU GUILTY OF FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY!



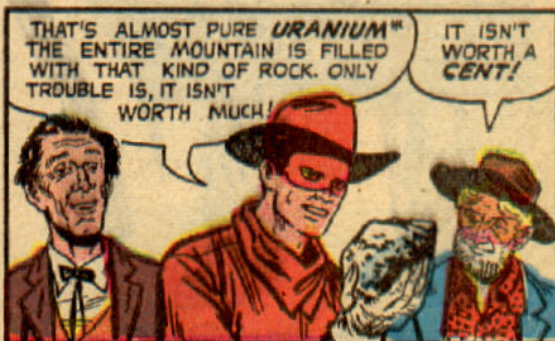
START MARCHING FOR THE BULLET JAIL.

TOLD YOU THE MOUNTAIN WUZ WUTHLESS. DIDN'T SAY NUTHIN' ABOUT THE **ICE** THOUGH. HUH! JUST NO-GOOD ROCK. THAT'S ALL IT IS!



THAT'S ALMOST PURE **URANIUM*** THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IS FILLED WITH THAT KIND OF ROCK. ONLY TROUBLE IS, IT ISN'T WORTH MUCH!

IT ISN'T WORTH A **CENT**!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: URANIUM WAS DISCOVERED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 18TH CENTURY. IT HAS BEEN COMMERCIALY PROFITABLE, HOWEVER, ONLY SINCE THE INVENTION OF THE ATOM BOMB AND ATOMIC POWER TODAY THIS MOUNTAIN—WHEREVER IT IS—WOULD BE WORTH MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS TO WHOEVER OWNED IT!

THE END

DAVY CROCKETT FLASHLIGHT



Complete with genuine
**DURA-SUEDE
BELT LOOP**

Double-barrelled, super-powered 2 cell
Davy Crockett flashlight... with red top
that glows when light is on!
Solid steel case, Ivory finish, with 2
color Davy Crockett illustration.



COMPIX, Inc. Dept. R.M.51
10 Murray St. New York 7, N.Y.

HERE'S MY DOLLAR!

Rush my DAVY CROCKETT FLASHLIGHT.

Name

Address

City State

NO COD'S

You Can WIN

This 15" tall
SILVER TROPHY
JUST AS I DID IN
10 MINUTES
OF FUN
A DAY!



I GAINED 53 LBS. OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED MUSCLES!

Which of these

2 ME'S is YOU?

THAT 112 LB. 6 FT.

SPINDLE-ARMED **SISSY** below
A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

THIS MAY BE
YOUR LAST
CHANCE
TO GET FOR
ALL 5 **10c**
PICTURE
PACKED COURSES
MILLIONS HAVE
BEEN SOLD FOR
\$1 AND MORE

When I enrolled I was a skinny, sick weakling. As you can see in my "Before" Photo I looked like a child... years younger than my age. I was ashamed to take a picture in bathing trunks as I do now. I was shy with girls because I had nothing to show off. A few weeks after starting the Jowett Course my body was the best in the neighborhood. Now I get respect and admiration from every fellow and girl I meet.

Roger D. Hirsch
NEW YORK

There's that
skinny scarecrow
ROGER. Let's
pass him by!



ROGER HIRSCH
was a 112 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING.
Look at him NOW—
A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN
from Head to Toe

as **YOU**
can be
soon!

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU GIVE ME

10 PLEASANT MINUTES A
DAY IN YOUR HOME... AND I'LL GIVE
YOU a NEW HE-MAN BODY
For Your OLD SKELETON FRAME.

says *George F. Jowett* World's Greatest
Builder of HE-MEN

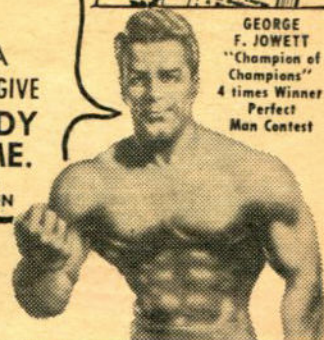
NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are; if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions.

NO! friend you
don't have to be
SKINNY any more
just mail **NOW**
the **FREE**
coupon below
as I did. Soon
YOU can add

6 1/2 inches to your **CHEST**
3 inches to each **ARM**
and the rest
in proportion
just as I did.



GEORGE
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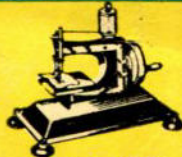
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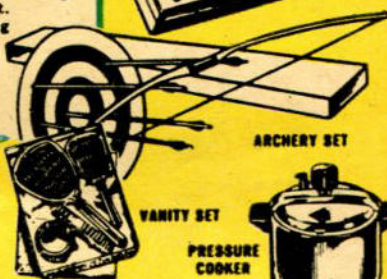
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